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**Statement for Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson
Committee on Homeland Security Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and
Terrorism Risk Assessment**

**“The Department of Homeland Security Second Stage Review:
The Role of the Chief Intelligence Officer”**

“I am very pleased that this Subcommittee is turning its attention to Secretary Chertoff’s Second Stage Review and his specific plans for both a new Chief Intelligence Officer and a new Office of Intelligence and Analysis. I hope that the Department’s intelligence efforts will be better than their scheduling skills. I strongly support Secretary Chertoff’s decision to elevate the importance of intelligence analysis within the Department by creating a Chief Intelligence Officer who will report directly to him. The Chief Intelligence Officer should play a key role in coordinating the efforts of all of the Department’s intelligence units and developing a Department-wide intelligence strategy. Nevertheless, Secretary Chertoff has not added much flesh to the bones of his new approach. He has not provided specifics about the key intelligence issue facing the Department: Specifically, what will the focus of its intelligence work be?

“Secretary Chertoff has not offered any specifics about the precise powers that the Chief Intelligence Officer will have, or how the Office of Intelligence & Analysis will be structured. He likewise has not included any specifics about how information will be shared internally among the Department’s various legacy agencies. Mr. Chertoff also has not articulated any specifics about how the Office of Intelligence & Analysis will serve as the primary connection between the Department and the wider Intelligence Community. How will it be the primary source of information for the Department’s state, local, tribal, and private sector partners?

“The Secretary also has not included any specifics about how the analysis shop will avoid duplicating the efforts of the wider Intelligence Community. Without these details, it is very hard for this Committee to conduct meaningful oversight. In my view, it is pointless to have a Chief Intelligence Officer who does not have intelligence information that actually advances the Department’s homeland security mission. I look forward to hearing from today’s witnesses. I hope they can help us help the Department prepare and implement its mission to prepare for, protect against, and thwart terrorist attacks with specific and actionable intelligence information.”